

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /066 W

----- 112491

R 130724Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0789

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: RECENT INCIDENT IN HARAM INVOLVING MUSLIM AND ISRAELI
YOUTH

REF: AMMAN 3085

1. CONGEN INQUIRY WITH WAQF DIRECTOR OF HARAM ES SHARIF HASSAN
TAHBOUB ELICITED FOLLOWING DETAILS CONCERNING INCIDENT MAY 8
IN HARAM. AT 4:45 P.M. LARGE GROUP OF ISRAELI YOUTH GATHERED
NEAR DUNG GATE INSIDE HARAM QUARTER AND BEGAN DANCING AND
SINGING. HARAM MUSLIM GUARDS ATTEMPTED TO STOP DEMONSTRATION
BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. ARAB YOUTH JOINED GUARDS RESULTING IN
CLASH BETWEEN TWO GROUPS. NUMBER OF ISRAELI YOUTH WITH SPRAY
CANS DEFACED ROYAL JORDANIAN CREST OVER TOMB OF KING HUSSIEN'S
GREAT GRANDFATHER. POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED 20 OF YOUTH
INVOLVED IN CLASH. PAINT WAS REMOVED FROM CREST BY ISRAELI
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

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2. TAHBOUB INDICATED TWO SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO ENTER HARAM

THAT SAME EVENING WERE REPORTED BY HARAM GUARDS. NEITHER ATTEMPTED SUCCEEDED. ACCORDING TO TAHBOUB, MUSLIM COUNCIL IS PREPARING PROTEST STATEMENT TO BE CIRCULATED AMONG FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES. TAHBOUB STATED COUNCIL WILL NOT MAKE FORMAL COMPLAINT TO GOI AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OF LACK OF RESPONSE FROM AUTHORITIES CONCERNING SUCH INCIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: INCIDENT RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN LOCAL ARABIC AND HEBREW PRESS. AS EL QUDS EDITOR PUT IT "THEY GET MORE EXCITED IN AMMAN THAN WE DO HERE; WE ARE USED TO THESE PROBLEMS." FROM TAHBOUB'S ACCOUNT APPEARS ISRAELI GROUP DID NOT ACTUALLY GET TO EITHER OF MOSQUES, ONLY TO SHARIF HUSSEIN'S TOMB. IT APPEARS TO US THAT INCIDENT GREW OUT OF CELEBRATION BY ISRAELIS OF JERUSALEM REUNIFICATION DAY MAY 8 AND HAD LITTLE OR NOTHING TO DO WITH KING'S SPEECHES. DAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JERUSA00789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750167-0971
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750558/aaaacajp.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 AMMAN 3085
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT INCIDENT IN HARAM INVOLVING MUSLIM AND ISRAELI YOUTH
TAGS: PINS, IS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006